Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lake*s may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing hhpm@usace.army.mil. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
March 2016

According to preliminary precipitation estimates, precipitation over the Great Lakes was above average in March. Precipitation to Lake Superior was about 6% above average, while precipitation to Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie was 87% and 57% above average. Precipitation to Lake Ontario was 18% above average. The net basin supply to all of the Great Lakes was above average, with the exception of Lake Ontario, which had close to average net basin supply. The tables below list March precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

All lakes with the exception of Lake Superior rose from February to March. Lake Superior's March mean level was about 1 inch lower than its February mean level. Mean lakewide average water levels in March were all above their long term average (LTA) March levels and above last year's March levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron levels were 9 and 13 inches, respectively, above their LTA March levels. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario were 17, 13, and 12 inches, respectively above their LTA March levels.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2016	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.84	1.73	0.11	106	31.65	30.43	1.22	104
Michigan-Huron	3.98	2.13	1.85	187	35.38	32.48	2.90	109
Erie	4.34	2.76	1.58	157	38.09	35.59	2.50	107
Ontario	3.16	2.68	0.48	118	37.57	35.83	1.74	105
Great Lakes	3.31	2.17	1.14	153	35.08	32.68	2.40	107

LAKE	March Net Basin Supplies[1] (cfs)		March Outflows[2] (cfs)	
	2016	Average (1900-2008)	2016	Average[3] (1900-2008)
Superior	82,000	46,000	85,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	337,000	183,000	198,000	172,000
Erie	84,000	72,000	234,000	197,000
Ontario	72,000	75,000	285,000	238,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

[1] Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

[2] Does not include diversions.

[3] Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005